CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether to allow a new trade of a contract <u>into an existing portfolio</u>, comprising:

determining ~~the~~ <u>a credit line or collateral</u> value ~~of margin amounts~~ supporting trading;

evaluating ~~the~~ <u>a</u> total value at risk in a portfolio of traded contracts;

comparing ~~the~~ <u>a</u> value at risk in the portfolio to the value of <u>the credit line or the collateral</u> ~~margin amounts~~ to calculate ~~the excess~~ <u>an</u> available margin;

calculating ~~the~~ <u>an</u> allowable notional trade volume, allowable notional trade quantity and ~~the~~ <u>a</u> risk per unit of commodity for a new trade;

determining whether the new trade has a value at risk which exceeds the ~~excess~~ available margin;

approving the <u>new</u> trade if it is determined that the value at risk of the new trade does not exceed the ~~excess~~ available margin; and

rejecting the <u>new</u> trade if it is determined that the value at risk of the new trade exceeds the ~~excess~~ available margin.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein~~, further including reviewing any rejected new trade to see if the effect of the <u>new</u> trade would have the effect of increasing the ~~excess~~ available margin and redetermining whether the new trade has a value at risk which exceeds the ~~excess~~ available margin as modified by the new trade, and approving or rejecting the <u>new</u> trade based on that redetermination.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~wherein~~ further including setting the margin amounts ~~are set~~ by reviewing traditional credit information and establishing limits on risk.

4. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the new trades are considered for a period of time until the end of the period when a clearing is performed and the new trades approved and performed since the beginning of the period are netted with the portfolio to produce a new value at risk in the portfolio, value of margin and new values of allowable notional trade volume, allowable notional trade quantity and the risk per unit of commodity.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the value at risk measurement is calculated based ~~expressed~~ on a per contract unit basis~~;~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the contract unit is calculated based on ~~expressed in~~ units of a commodity.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the contract unit is calculated based on ~~expressed in~~ units of currency~~;~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the contract unit is calculated based on ~~expressed in~~ units of time~~;~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the contract unit is calculated based on ~~expressed in~~ a combination of units of time, currency and/or commodity~~;~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the value at risk measurement used is calculated based on ~~expressed as~~ a percentage of an index value~~;~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the value at risk measurement used is calculated based on ~~expressed as~~ a percentage of the contract value~~;~~.

12. (Original) The method of claim1 wherein different determinations of value at risk are made for specific products and contract terms~~;~~.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein certain determinations of value at risk may cover many different products and/or contract terms;

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the value at risk exceeds the available margin for a new trade by comparing the value at risk for a ~~determination is compared to the~~ unit quantity of the new ~~a proposed~~ trade to the available margin.~~;~~

15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 wherein determining if the value at risk exceeds the available margin for a new trade is done by comparing the value at risk for a ~~determination is compared to the~~ dollar value of new ~~proposed~~ trade.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 wherein determining if the value at risk exceeds the available margin for a new trade by comparing the value at risk for a ~~determination is compared to the~~ quantity of the new ~~a proposed~~ trade multiplied by an index value to the available margin.

17. (New Claim) A method of determining whether or to what extent to allow a new trade of a contract, comprising:

determining a value of a credit line or collateral amount supporting trading;

evaluating a total value at risk in a portfolio of traded contracts;

comparing a value at risk in the portfolio to the value of credit or collateral amounts to calculate an available margin;

calculating an allowable notional trade volume, allowable notional trade quantity and a risk per unit of commodity for a unit of a new trade;

determining whether a unit of the new trade has a value at risk which exceeds the available margin; and

determining how many units of the new trade can be added to the portfoilio without exceeding the available margin.

18. (New Claim) The method of claim 17 wherein the unit of the new trade is a unit quantity of the new trade.

19. (New Claim) A method of claim 17 wherein the unit of the new trade is a dollar value of new trade.

20. (New Claim) A method of claim 17 wherein the unit of the new trade is a quantity of trade multiplied by an index value.

21. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, further including re-analyzing a rejected new trade to determine the effect of the rejected new trade on the existing portfolio, by determining if the rejected new trade would increase or decrease the value at risk of the existing portfolio, and approving or rejecting the new trade based on that redetermination.